

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9650

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1745

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU, GV

SUBJECT: GABONESE SATISFACTION WITH OAU SUMMIT

SUMMARY: GABONESE ARE DELIGHTED WITH RESULTS OF OAU SUMMIT,
AND BONGO LOOKS FORWARD TO ACTIVE YEAR AS CHAIRMAN. END SUMMARY.

1. GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO TOOK TO TV AND RADIO EVENING
JULY 7 TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF 14TH OAU
SUMMIT AND APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO ITS SUCCESS. PRESIDENT GAVE SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS OF
GOG, SECURITY FORCES, "ANIMATION GROUPS" FROM GABON'S
SINGLE PARTY, AND RADIO-TV TECHNICIANS, BUT MADE CLEAR THAT
ENTIRE LIBREVILLE POPULATION WAS ENTITLED TO SHARE OF HIS
GRATITUDE.

2. BONGO SPEECH REFLECTS GENERAL SENSE OF SURPRISED
DELIGHT THAT SUMMIT WAS CARRIED OFF SMOOTHLY AND THAT NECESSARY
CONSTRUCTION WAS IN FACT COMPLETE IN TIME. GENERAL
GLOW OF SATISFACTION HAS EVEN MUTED EARLIER CRITICISM OF
HEAVY EXPENDITURES INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY SINCE MUCH OF
INVESTMENT WENT INTO SUCH URBAN AMENITIES AS NEW ROAD
NETWORK WHICH IS NOW BENEFITING ALL COMERS. OUTLAYS
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DIRECTLY RELATED TO OAU (\$23 MILLION FOR CONFERENCE HALL,
\$20 MILLION FOR THEATER AND BANQUET HALL, PERHAPS \$50-60
MILLION FOR VILLAS AND IMPROVEMENT TO PRESIDENTIAL HOUSING
AREA) WERE RELATIVELY SMALL PART OF TOTAL INVESTMENT BUDGET
AND MAY EVEN BE PARTIALLY AMORTIZED IN FUTURE IF GABON
CAN ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES TO ITS NEW
FACILITIES.

3. IN HIS SPEECH BONGO ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTS TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE AS OAU CHAIRMAN AND APPEALED TO ALL GABONESE TO STAND UNITED BEHIND HIM DURING COMING YEAR. GABONESE, HE SAID, HAD SHOWN THEIR MATURITY IN HOSTING OAU SUMMIT WITHOUT SINGLE DISCORDANT NOTE. SAME MATURITY WOULD BE NEEDED IN YEAR TO COME, HE CONTINUED, IN ORDER PERMIT COUNTRY AND ITS PRESIDENT TO DO THEIR JOB FOR AFRICA. IN THIS REGARD, BONGO PARTICULARLY CAUTIONED ALL GABONESE AGAINST "PROVOCATION" FROM INSIDE OR OUTSIDE GABON, AND REFERRED THREE SEPARATE TIMES TO NEED FOR "AFRICAN BROTHERS... WHO LIVE IN GABON" TO BEHAVE THEMSELVES AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT GABONESE ARE "MASTERS IN THEIR OWN HOUSE."

4. COMMENT: LIBREVILLE SUMMIT HAS GIVEN BONGO EXCELLENT PLATFORM FOR ACTIVISM. NOT ONLY DOES HE HOLD CHAIRMANSHIP FOR COMING YEAR, BUT GABON IS MEMBER OF PERMANENT CONCILIATION COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER NIGERIAN RESOLUTION (LIBREVILLE 1718) AND ALSO WILL SIT ON AD HOC COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO DEAL WITH CHAD-LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA-SUDAN DISPUTES (LIBREVILLE 1696 AND 1697). IN ADDITION, BONGO WILL BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED AS CHAIRMAN IN PREPARATIONS FOR LUSAKA EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT (THOUGH HERE HIS ACTIVISM WILL PRESUMABLY BE TEMPERED BY HIS BILATERAL TIES TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA). THUS, HE HAS EVERY REASON TO BE SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME OF LIBREVILLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUMMIT, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE CHAIRMANSHIP TO ITS FULLEST IN KEEPING HIMSELF AND GABON IN AFRICAN LIMELIGHT. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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